

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claim 1 and to add new claims 31-41.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 21, 2004

By: _____

Douglas P. Mueller
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DPM/jh

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE